

Minutes from March 22, 2012 Meeting of the CV-SALTS Lower San Joaquin River Committee

[I do not recall if an attendance sheet went around, and do not have my own list of attendees.]

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Westcott at 1:30 pm. Attendees and participants by phone introduced themselves and identified the organization they represent. There were no suggested changes to the Agenda, but the Chair noted some items would be taken out of order.

1. The Minutes from the prior meeting of February 9, 2012 were reviewed and approved with minor changes, subject to any further comments by Committee members.
2. The Chair gave a brief update on the SWRCB's recent workshop on two technical appendices pertaining to the proposed changes to the Water Quality Control Plan Objectives dealing with flows on the San Joaquin River and its main tributaries. These objectives are for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses. The appendices dealt with economic impacts to agricultural and power production/distribution resulting from the proposed increases in river flows.
3. The Chair reported on his recent meeting with a basin planning specialist (Richard Meyerhoff of CDM Smith). The meeting was helpful and confirmed that the Committee likely needs a manager to supervise and manage the process as well as to perform some of the necessary tasks associated with developing the BPA.
4. The Committee reviewed the spread sheets prepared for the meeting dealing with costs associated with the Work Plan. The estimated costs of performing the Plan are greater than the currently available/identified funds. The costs of a manager are now understood to be paid for by the CV-SALTS process itself, without affecting funds available to the Committee. The Committee agree that portions of the Work Plan can be accomplished by coordinating with DWR and USBR efforts and by using CV-SALTS technical staff, thus addressing in large part the budgeting issue.

The Committee decided: **A manager with knowledge of the basin is needed. The manager will be used to also perform much of the up-front work of the Work Plan. The Work Plan actions should not be diminished due to funding issues. Cost savings will be had by using DWR, USBR resources and CV-SALTS staff.**

5. The Committee then discussed the need and methods for promptly getting a manager and a contractor to perform the Work Plan actions. Ms. Chilcott reviewed the possible methods, procedural hurdles, and timing of contracting. As before, it was noted that JPA's and Resource Conservation Districts are the entities with which contracts can be quickly finalized. The San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (a JPA) and three RCD's have already been identified or contacted as possible contractors.

The Committee decided: **Ms Chilcott will contact the SJV Drainage Authority to ask if it is agreeable to managing a contract to retain a Committee manager. Time is of the essence. It**

is the intent of the Committee to begin the process of soliciting potential Committee managers during the time a contract with the Authority is being considered and finalized. Ms. Chilcott shall contact the East Stanislaus RCD, West Stanislaus RCD (and/or any other RCD's in the Basin) to determine interest in managing a contract to retain the Work Plan contractor. Time is of the essence.

6. The Committee then discussed its potential activities pending the retention of a manager and Work Plan contractor. It was noted that policy issues raised regarding the Regional Board's approach to addressing salinity impacts on beneficial uses (including the Hoffman materials) have not been resolved and the Committee could begin reviewing these to make recommendations to the Regional Board.

It was also discussed that the Chair's ability to continue in that capacity may end in April depending on his current employers decision, yet a manager will not likely be on board until August. In light of this issue, the Chair excused himself and left the room. The remainder of the Committee members then discussed the issue. There is a possibility that the Chair desire to apply for the Committee manager position.

The Committee decided: **The San Joaquin River Group Authority will be contacted to determine if it will continue to authorize Mr. Westcott to act as Committee Chair through August 2012. If it will not, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority will be asked to fund (under its current contract with CV-SALTS) Mr. Westcott's time as Chair through August 2012.**

7. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on April 15, 2012 at the regular meeting location.